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harlequin pink:

Never Kiss a

STRANGER

written by Madeleine Ker

art by Mayu Kasumi

harlequin pink:

NEVER KISS A STRANGER

Adapted from the original novel by Madeleine Ker
Art by Mayu Kasumi

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HARLEQUIN PINK: NEVER KISS A STRANGER

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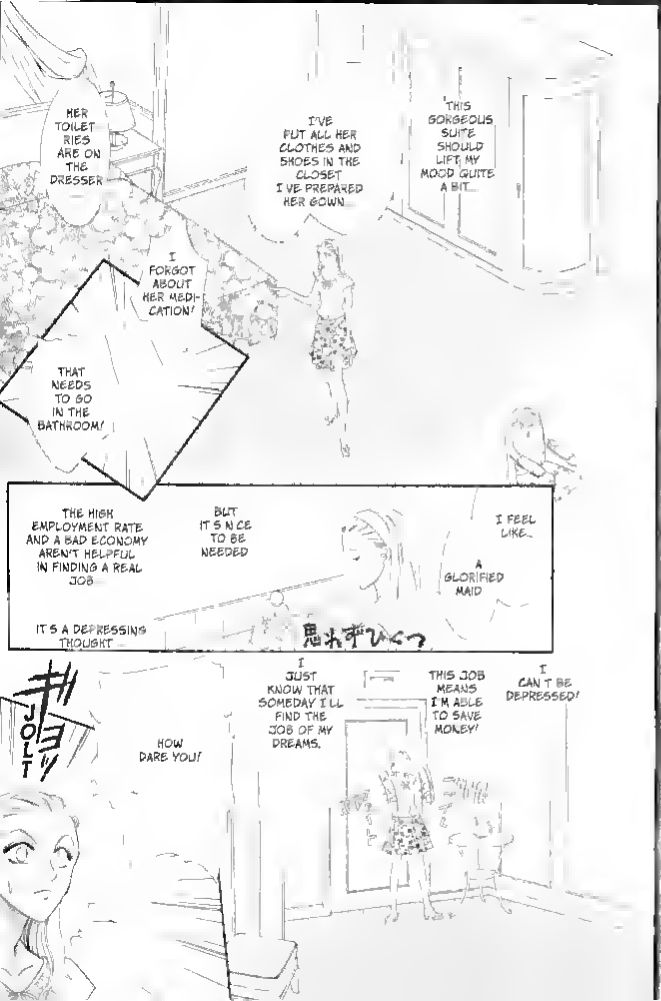
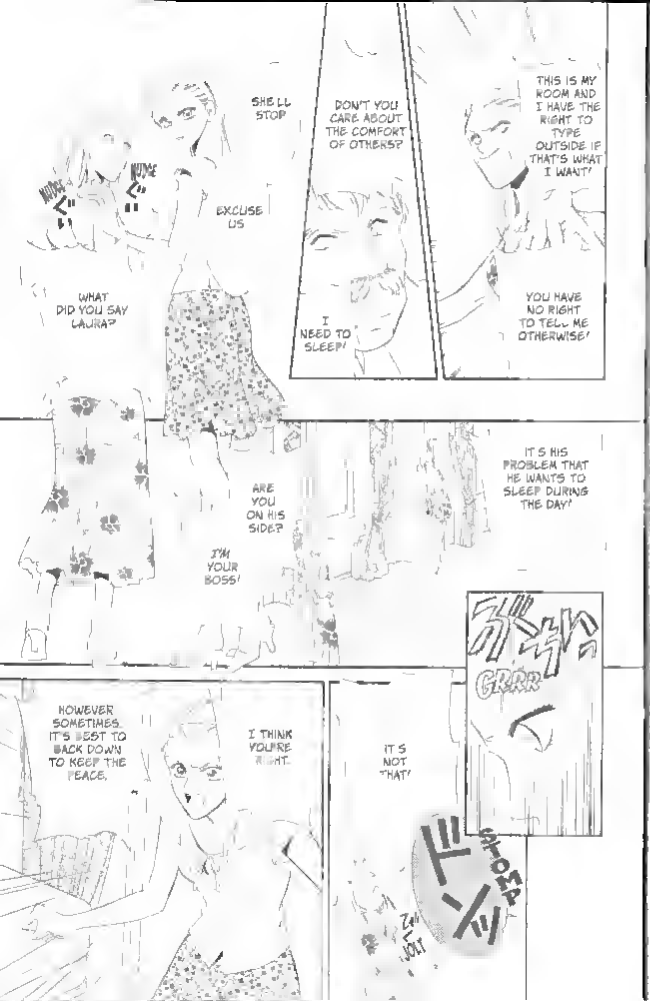
I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM
HELP!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING
THUD
KNOCK
KNOCK
THIS IS THE 22ND FLOOR!
A ROBBER CAN'T JUST CLIMB UP HERE!
SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE!
UNHHH
HIS STRONG ARMS TELL ME THAT I AM NOT DREAMING.
I'M SURE WE WILL--
I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE HE'S A COMPLETE STRANGER...
WHO ARE YOU!?
--MEET ONCE AGAIN.

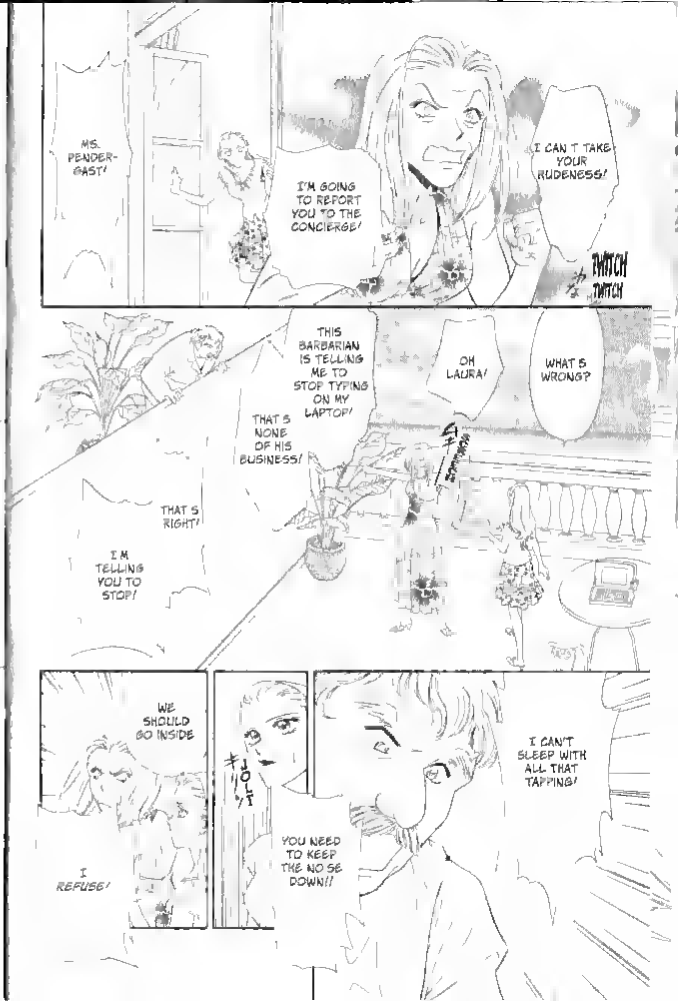
THERE ARE OTHER ROOMS AVAILABLE RIGHT?
THE ROOM IS ALREADY OCCUPIED
UH...
THE ROOM IS WHAT!?
OF COURSE MADE MO SELLE
WE WOULD LOVE TO OFFER THE ROOM NEXT DOOR NUMBER 225
THIS WAS BECAUSE YOU PEOPLE MADE A MISTAKE!!
I REFUSE TO PAY ANOTHER EURO FOR AN UPGRADE!
THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN JUST LIKE THIS
LET'S GO TO OUR ROOM!
I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ... I'M SO STRESSED OUT!
DRAG
DRAG
THUD
THUD
THAT'S WONDERFUL! I'M SURE YOU'LL LOVE IT DON'T YOU THINK?
SUITE 225 IS A MORE LUXURIOUS SUITE THAN THE ROOM THAT WAS RESERVED
STILL
UH SURE?

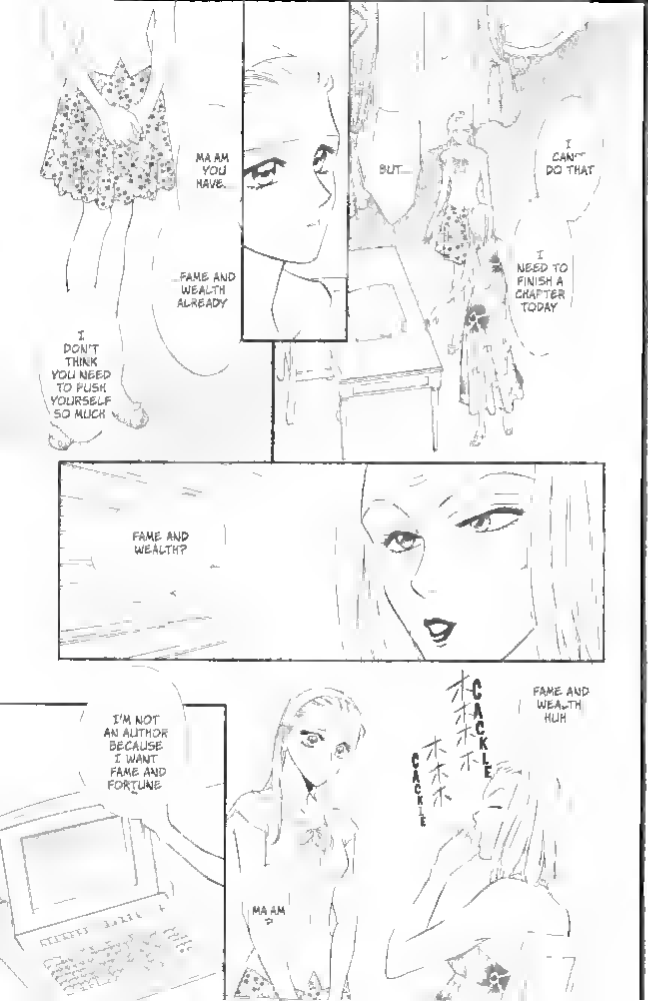
REQUIRED ASSISTANT DURING A EUROPEAN VACATION. GOOD PAY TRAVELING EXPENSES AND FOOD WILL BE PAID BY THE EMPLOYER. IT WAS A TEMPTING JOB OFFER I SHOULD HAVE DECLINED
NICE, FRANCE
I ALWAYS USE ROOM 223!
--SHE'S FREAKING OUT OVER THE SMALLEST THINGS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE--
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE MIX UP MADAME
I RESERVED THIS ROOM THREE MONTHS AGO! I NEED THAT ROOM!

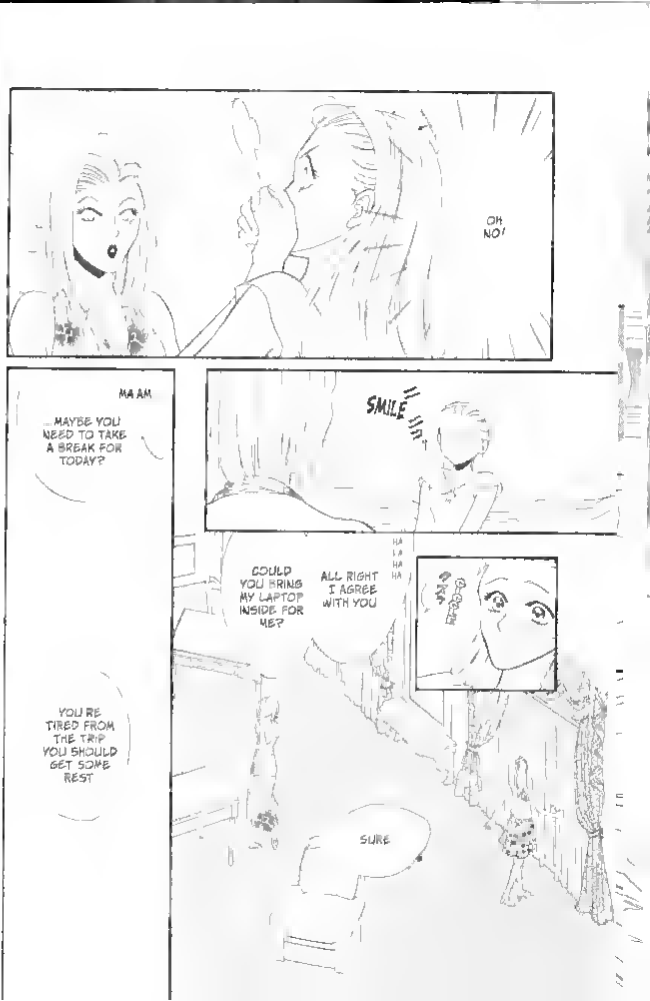

HER TOILETRIES ARE ON THE DRESSER
I'VE PUT ALL HER CLOTHES AND SHOES IN THE CLOSET I'VE PREPARED HER GOWN
THIS GORGEOUS SUITE SHOULD LIFT MY MOOD QUITE A BIT
I FORGOT ABOUT HER MEDICATION!
THAT NEEDS TO GO IN THE BATHROOM!
THE HIGH EMPLOYMENT RATE AND A BAD ECONOMY AREN'T HELPFUL IN FINDING A REAL JOB
BUT IT'S NICE TO BE NEEDED
I FEEL LIKE...
A GLORIFIED MAID
IT'S A DEPRESSING THOUGHT
思わずひく
I JUST KNOW THAT SOMEDAY I'LL FIND THE JOB OF MY DREAMS.
THIS JOB MEANS I'M ABLE TO SAVE MONEY!
I CAN'T BE DEPRESSED!
HOW DARE YOU!
JOLT!

SHE'S A POPULAR ROMANCE NOVEL AUTHOR BUT I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF LIKE HER
OF COURSE!
CACKLE
THE VIEW IS STUNNING! THIS IS AN EXCELLENT ROOM!
MY EMPLOYER MAMIE PENDERGAST IS A DEMANDING AND SELF-CENTERED WOMAN
MY ROOM HAS TO BE THE BEST!
HER REFINED LIFESTYLE HAS BEEN INTERESTING TO OBSERVE.
I NEED TO SURROUND MYSELF IN LUXURY
TO BE INSPIRED
SOMETIMES IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A PRINCESS


MUMU
MUMU
EXCUSE US
SHE'LL STOP
WHAT DID YOU SAY LAURA?
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT THE COMFORT OF OTHERS?
I NEED TO SLEEP!
THIS IS MY ROOM AND I HAVE THE RIGHT TO TYPE OUTSIDE IF THAT'S WHAT I WANT!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME OTHERWISE!
ARE YOU ON HIS SIDE?
I'M YOUR BOSS!
IT'S HIS PROBLEM THAT HE WANTS TO SLEEP DURING THE DAY!
HOWEVER SOMETIMES IT'S BEST TO BACK DOWN TO KEEP THE PEACE.
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S NOT "THAT"
GRRR
STOP
Z-Z-NOT


MS. PEADER-GAST!
I'M GOING TO REPORT YOU TO THE CONCIERGE!
I CAN'T TAKE YOUR RUDENESS!
TWITCH TWITCH
THIS BARBARIAN IS TELLING ME TO STOP TYPING ON MY LAPTOP!
THAT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS!
OH LAURA!
WHAT'S WRONG?
SOPPING
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M TELLING YOU TO STOP!
WE SHOULD GO INSIDE
I REFUSE!
TOUT
YOU NEED TO KEEP THE NOISE DOWN!!
I CAN'T SLEEP WITH ALL THAT TAPPING!


I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO PUSH YOURSELF SO MUCH
MA AM YOU HAVE FAME AND WEALTH ALREADY
BUT...
I CAN'T DO THAT
I NEED TO FINISH A CHAPTER TODAY
FAME AND WEALTH?
I'M NOT AN AUTHOR BECAUSE I WANT FAME AND FORTUNE
MA AM?
CACKLE
オホホホ
FAME AND WEALTH HUH


OH NO!
MA AM
MAYBE YOU NEED TO TAKE A BREAK FOR TODAY?
YOU'RE TIRED FROM THE TRIP YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST
SMILE
COULD YOU BRING MY LAPTOP INSIDE FOR ME?
ALL RIGHT I AGREE WITH YOU
HA HA HA
SURE

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
CLICK
THUMP
I HOPE THAT I WASN'T MS PENDERGAST COLLAPSING
I SEE...
SOMEONE LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN...
SIGH
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG SO YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND YET
MS PENDERGAST
SOMETIMES SHE HAS THE LONELIEST SMILE
TAP

THIS IS THE 22ND FLOOR!
A GHOST...
NO, IT'S A PERSON...
HOW DID HE CLIMB UP HERE?
AAAH!
THUMP
FLASH!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ARE YOU BRITISH?
YES
WHY DO YOU ASK?
WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND?

.....
PLEASE KEEP YOUR MOUTH CLOSED
QUIET MADEMOISELLE
WHO ARE YOU?

SMILE"
I'LL GIVE YOU MONEY SO PLEASE LEAVE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH A SENIOR CITIZEN ANYWAY?
DON'T WORRY
I WON'T HURT MS PENDERGAST
JOLT
HIS VOICE IS SO WARM AND CALMING
HIS AFTERSHAVE HAS A VERY DELICATE SCENT...
I NEVER KNEW THAT A BURGLAR COULD BE SO GENTLE...

GLARE
I'LL GRAB
IF YOU TRY TO HURT MS PENDERGAST
STEP
—I'LL CRACK THIS VASE ON THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD!
MS. PENDERGAST ?

AAAAAAH
HELP!
THAT MANUSCRIPT IS WORTH--
--WEEKS AND WEEKS OF HARD WORK FOR MS PENDERGAST
HER STORY IS WORTH MUCH MORE THAN WHAT WE HAVE IN CASH OR JEWELRY
IT'S VERY IMPORTANT
HE COULD SELL HER LATEST STORY FOR AT LEAST TEN THOUSAND POUNDS OR MORE!
I HAVE NO NEED FOR MONEY
ALL RIGHT
JEWELRY ?
HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?
WHAT I WANT HAS MORE VALUE.
WILL YOU PROMISE TO REMAIN QUIET?
-IF I PROMISE NOT TO HURT YOU OR YOUR FRIEND
MADEMOISELLE
HE'S GOING TO STEAL MS PENDERGAST'S STORY!
OH!

I'M SURE WE WILL --
UNHHH
--MEET ONCE AGAIN
SLAM
SOMEBODY!
CALL THE POLICE!
GRAB
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD --
--KEEP YOUR PROMISE
WELL YOU ARE VERY BRAVE
THAT'S FOR SURE

CHATTER
CHATTER

SHE'S TELLING EVERYONE WHAT HAPPENED! I'M A LAUGHING STOCK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY BOSS!
CHUCKLE
HA HA HA

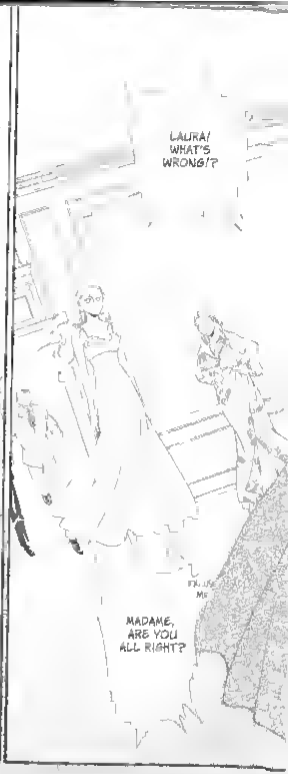
CACKLE
MY ASSISTANT
THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS A BURGLAR IN OUR ROOM!

--KISSED ME!
HE--
SHAKE
SHAKE

OH MY!
BLUSH

AAAAH!

--HAPPENED ?
WHAT JUST--
SLUMP
へたん


LAURA! WHAT'S WRONG!?
MADAME, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

EXCUSE ME VIVIAN
I HAD SOME URGENT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU CAESAR!
LET ME INTRODUCE SOMEBODY VERY SPECIAL!
AAAAH! キャあ♡
THIS IS OUR HOST CAESAR LABERIOV
HE IS THE OWNER OF THIS SHIP
オ CHEER!!
THE HOTEL STAFF THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE
--I TOLD THEM THE TRUTH BUT NOBODY BELIEVED ME
AFTER THE THIEF LEFT--
WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT WAS TRUE
I WANT TO KNOW IF--
I'M SCARED
I WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
IT'S CAESAR!
CAESAR'S HERE!
I'M GOING TO SEE HIM AGAIN?
DOES THAT MEAN
- MEET ONCE AGAIN
I'M SURE WE WILL--

COULD HE BE?
THE DELICATE SCENT OF HIS AFTERSHAVE... IT'S THE SAME...
UH...
SMILE !!

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO
THIS IS LAURA GOLIGHTLY
MY ASSISTANT
THOSE EYES- I COULD NEVER FORGET THEM.
IT'S HIM!
HIS MANNER SMS THE VOICE
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG, MAMIE
NICE TO MEET YOU MS GOLIGHTLY
I'M CAESAR LABERTOV
IT'S DEFINITELY HIM
YOU LOOK GREAT CAESAR

CAESAR HAS CHOSEN TO KEEP HIS RUSSIAN NAME.
HE'S RUSSIAN
DURING THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION HE DEFECTED TO FRANCE AND MARRIED INTO A FRENCH NOBLE FAMILY
HIS LATE GRAND FATHER WAS A RUSSIAN ARISTOCRAT
IS MONSIEUR LABERTOV INVOLVED IN THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY?
MADAME ROCHE?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE!
COULD THIS LUXURIOUS LIFESTYLE BE THE RESULT OF HIS THEFTS?
NO HE'S COMPANY DESIGNS AIRPLANES HOWEVER HE IS AN INVESTOR IN OUR PUBLISHING COMPANY
WHY WOULD HE NEED TO ROB ANYONE?
CAESAR LABERTOV
LAURA JUST GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE IN ENGLAND
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE CAESAR.
THIS IS HER FIRST TIME OVERSEAS.
HAVE I MET YOU BEFORE LAURA?
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL HE'S GOLIGHTLY
CAESAR IS A FAMOUS PLAYBOY
SHE'S NOT LIKE THE WOMEN YOU'VE DALLIED WITH DON'T TRY TO ROMANCE HER.
HE'S WEALTHY AND HANDSOME.
WOMEN WON'T LEAVE HIM ALONE
GIGGLE
WOMEN ARE ALL OVER HIM!
HA HA HA
YOU'RE ALWAYS VERY STRICT AREN'T YOU?

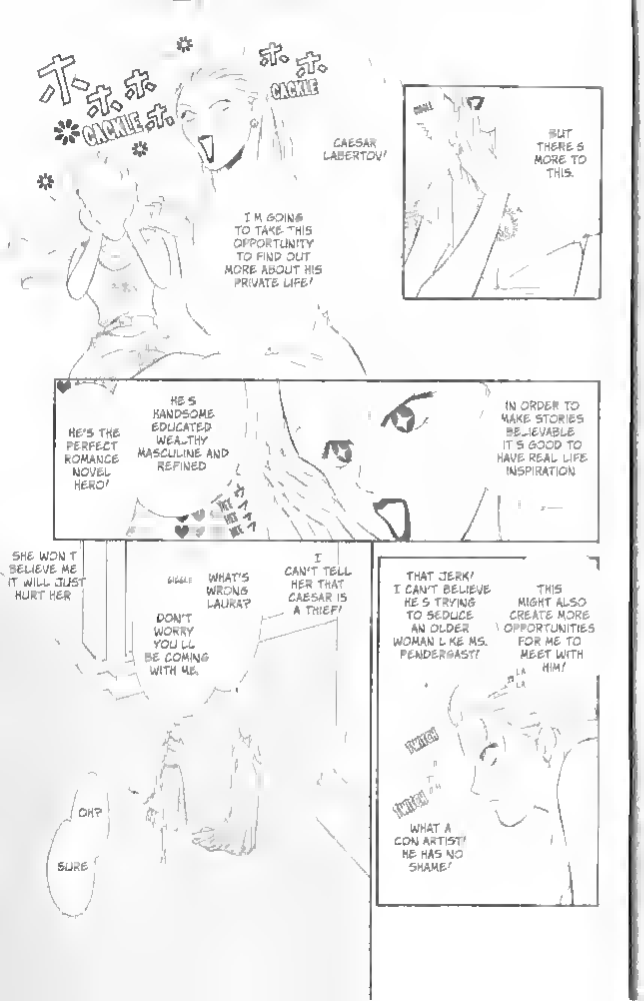
I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE ONLY REASON
IF I FOCUSED ON MY ENJOYMENT ALL THE TIME I'D BE FIRED
WHAT SHOULD I DO
IT'S MY JOB -
- TO BE QUIET
WE'RE ALONE OUT HERE.
SHE TOLD THE STORY IN THE MOST ENTERTAINING FASHION
SHUT HER N' SET AN AUTHOR
MAMIE TOLD ME ABOUT LAST NIGHT
SHE SAID THAT
-YOU WERE PROBABLY TELLING THE TRUTH
SHE DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE..
..THE TYPE TO LIE
YOU'RE GOING TO ADMIT BEING THE THIEF FROM LAST NIGHT?
YOU'RE GOING TO ADMIT IT?
I'M HONORED TO HEAR YOU
SAY MY NAME
I DIDN'T HEAR HIM COMING "
USUALLY ATTRACTIVE WOMEN LIKE YOU
ARE ASSERTIVE AND SOCIABLE
YOU'RE A QUIET GIRL

I AM CURIOUS ABOUT HER STRONG
—YET GENTLE ASSISTANT
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO STEAL MAMIE'S GAUDY DIAMOND
I'M SURE YOU REALIZED THAT
I'VE BEEN ATTRACTED TO YOU
EVER SINCE I LAID EYES ON YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN WITH HER ALL DAY TODAY!
BESIDES..
..WHAT WOULD I WANT FROM MAMIE?
YOU JUST HAD A BAD DREAM
WHY SHOULD I?
HER PRECIOUS DIAMOND MAYBE?
YOU WERE GOING TO STEAL SOMETHING..
YOUR KISS
WAS THAT YOUR FIRST KISS?
MY WHAT!?
THAT'S UNUSUAL IN THIS DAY AND AGE
かぁ
BLUSH
BLUSH
SOMETHING WAS STOLEN LAST NIGHT
MAMIE SAID...
THAT'S RIGHT

GRAB
UHM

HE'S RIGHT
EVEN IF NOBODY BELIEVES ME
I'M STILL A BOTHERSOME WITNESS
WE'LL HAVE TO RESOLVE IT YOU AND ME
SHOVE
THANKS TO YOU
I HAVE A PROBLEM
WOBBLE
HE'S NOT GOING TO WANT ME ALIVE!
I'M GOING TO FALL!
AAH!
KYAAAAA!
GRAB

WE'LL TALK MORE LATER ALL RIGHT?
WAIT! LAURA, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME.
LET ME GO!
NOT A CHANCE! I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN
IF YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD DISTRACT ME WITH A KISS, YOU'RE WRONG!
NO! I CAN'T FALL
MY MIND IS BECOMING FOGGY!
NO! NO!
OVERBOARD!
IT'S NO USE
I CAN'T FIGHT HIM.
LAURA WHERE ARE YOU?
LAURA!
MS PENDERGAST!
SHOVE

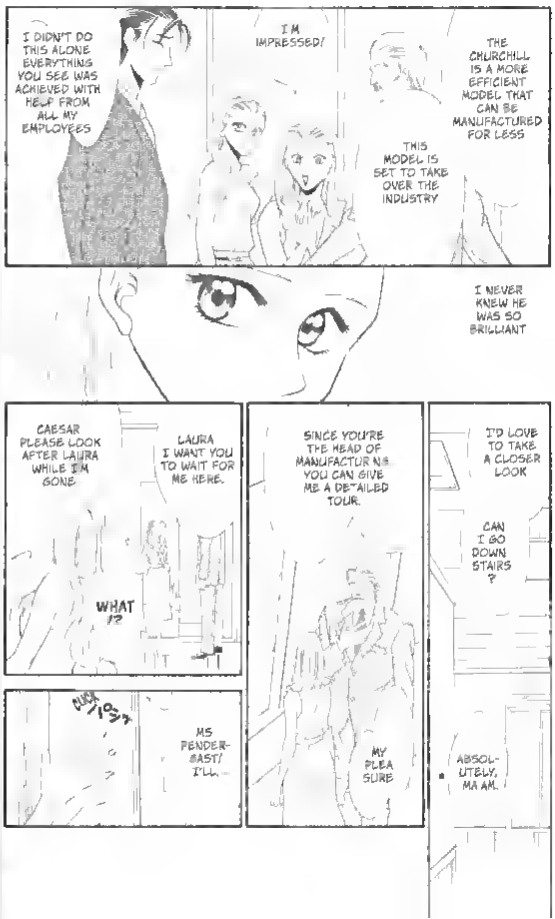

ふふふ
CHUCKLE
ふふふ
CHUCKLE
CAESAR LABERTOV
I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIS PRIVATE LIFE!
BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS.
HE'S THE PERFECT ROMANCE NOVEL HERO!
HE'S HANDSOME EDUCATED WEALTHY MASCULINE AND REFINED
IN ORDER TO MAKE STORIES BELIEVABLE IT'S GOOD TO HAVE REAL LIFE INSPIRATION
SHE WON'T BELIEVE ME IT WILL JUST HURT HER
BIGGIE
WHAT'S WRONG LAURA?
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT CAESAR IS A THIEF!
DON'T WORRY YOU'LL BE COMING WITH ME.
OH?
SURE
THAT JERK! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S TRYING TO SEDUCE AN OLDER WOMAN LIKE MS. PENDERGAST!
THIS MIGHT ALSO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME TO MEET WITH HIM!
LA LA
WHAT A CON ARTIST! HE HAS NO SHAME!
HE THOUGHT HE COULD KISS ME INTO STAYING QUIET!
WHAT A CREEP!
NOT JUST ONCE BUT TWICE!
WHAT!?
GOOD BYE.
OH MY!!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE TOURING MR LABERTOV'S FACTORY?
IT'LL BE GREAT RESEARCH FOR MY BOOK!
HE'S GOING TO SHOW ME HOW AIRPLANES ARE MANUFACTURED
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE

TO GET RID OF ME?
SHIVER
CAESAR LABERTON ISN'T AFTER MS PENDERGAST!
WAIT, BUT
WHY DID HE INVITE HER?
IS HE TRYING TO GET RID OF HIS ONLY WITNESS?
I SHOULDN'T GO
IT'S A TRAP
I DON'T THINK SO
YOU DO WANT TO COME ALONG RIGHT?
OH!
LAURA ABOUT WHAT I TOLD YOU EARLIER.

SUDDENLY
GLARE
GOOD EVENING
!!
WAIT. IF HE ACCIDENTALLY ENDED UP IN HER USUAL ROOM.
OH MY !!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T SEE THIS EARLIER!
--I WON'T FORGIVE HIM FOR TAKING MY ROOM!
I CAN FORGIVE ..HIS RUDENESS BUT--

UGH!
イーーーッだ!!
HARRUMPH!
SMILE
?
?
?
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
MR. LABERTOV DESIGNED THIS CRAFT HIMSELF
YES. THE DESIGN HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC YET. BUT THE AIRPLANE MODEL IS CALLED THE CHURCHILL
THIS IS
THE "SPECIAL SURPRISE" YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT CAESAR?
WELL, LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT
I'VE BEEN SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS!
YOU PROMISED TO SHOW ME SOMETHING SPECIAL
THE EMPLOYEES SEEM TO BE LEGITIMATE WORKING MEN...
I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN, THOUGH
WHAT IF MY BOSS IS IN DANGER?
WELCOME TO AEROMED
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

WHAT DO YOU THINK--
YOU'RE DOING!?
WE'RE ALONE NOW
!!
OH NO!
GRAB
TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE HERE


I DIDN'T DO THIS ALONE EVERYTHING YOU SEE WAS ACHIEVED WITH HELP FROM ALL MY EMPLOYEES
I'M IMPRESSED!
THE CHURCHILL IS A MORE EFFICIENT MODEL THAT CAN BE MANUFACTURED FOR LESS
THIS MODEL IS SET TO TAKE OVER THE INDUSTRY
I NEVER KNEW HE WAS SO BRILLIANT
CAESAR PLEASE LOOK AFTER LAURA WHILE I'M GONE.
LAURA I WANT YOU TO WAIT FOR ME HERE.
WHAT !?
SINCE YOU'RE THE HEAD OF MANUFACTURING YOU CAN GIVE ME A DETAILED TOUR.
I'D LOVE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK
CAN I GO DOWN STAIRS ?
ABSOLUTELY, MA'AM.
MY PLEASURE
MS PENDERGAST, I'LL--

IT'S ADDRESSED TO YOUR REAL TARGET,
--THE EASTERN EUROPE REPRESENTATIVE OF AERONAUTIC ENGINEERS INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM MR. IVAN ACTOPOL.
UNLESS I PUT A STOP TO IT LATER TODAY THAT LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED
IT SAYS "CAESAR LABERTOV IS AFTER YOU."
I LEFT A LETTER WITH A SOMEONE
IT'S NOBLE FOR YOU TO PROTECT OTHERS BUT YOU COULD BE RISKING YOUR LIFE
I DON'T THINK SO!!
YOU LIKE ME WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE HERE?
YOU SET A TRAP FOR ME
USING MS PENDERGAST
I SEE
--YOU DIRTY CREEP!

THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE CHURCHILL
HE BOUGHT IT TECHNICALLY
HE BOUGHT THE DATA THAT WAS STOLEN OUT OF THE FACTORY
MR ACTOPOL STOLE YOUR DESIGN!?
I KNOW THAT THE DATA WAS COPIED TO A CD
AHAHAHA
WHA...
WHAT!?
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA!
YOU'RE SMART!
THE HOTEL MADE A MISTAKE AND GAVE HIM OUR ROOM
UH
HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WAS THE TARGET?
THAT NIGHT HE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT I DESPERATELY NEEDED
SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
THEY GAVE HIM THE WRONG ROOM
I THOUGHT
IT WAS JUST BAD LUCK
THERE MIGHT BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND MR ACTOPOL

THAT'S NOT THE POINT LAURA
THAT'S NOT A BAD DEAL IS IT?
WE WOULD HAVE MADE A LOT OF MONEY WITHOUT DOING MUCH WORK
HIS COMPANY WOULD HAVE DONE ALL THE R AND D AS WELL AS MARKETING
I STARTED WITH NOTHING
I MAY HAVE ROYAL BLOOD BUT...
MY PARENTS DIED WHEN I WAS SIXTEEN
ALL THEY LEFT ME WAS A LOT OF DEBT
IT TOOK ME THREE YEARS OF HARD WORK TO SAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR COLLEGE
MY DREAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN...
...TO DESIGN AIRPLANES THAT FLY ALL OVER THE WORLD.

I'LL HEAR YOU OUT AND DECIDE FOR MYSELF
I DON'T KNOW
YOU BELIEVE ME?
I DON'T HAVE SOLID PROOF
BUT
CAN'T THE POLICE HELP YOU?
SURE
THANK YOU
TA-THUMP
ACTOPOL WORKS FOR CYRUS OUR COMPETITOR
HE WANTED TO BUY ALL THE PATENTS FOR THE CHURCHILL

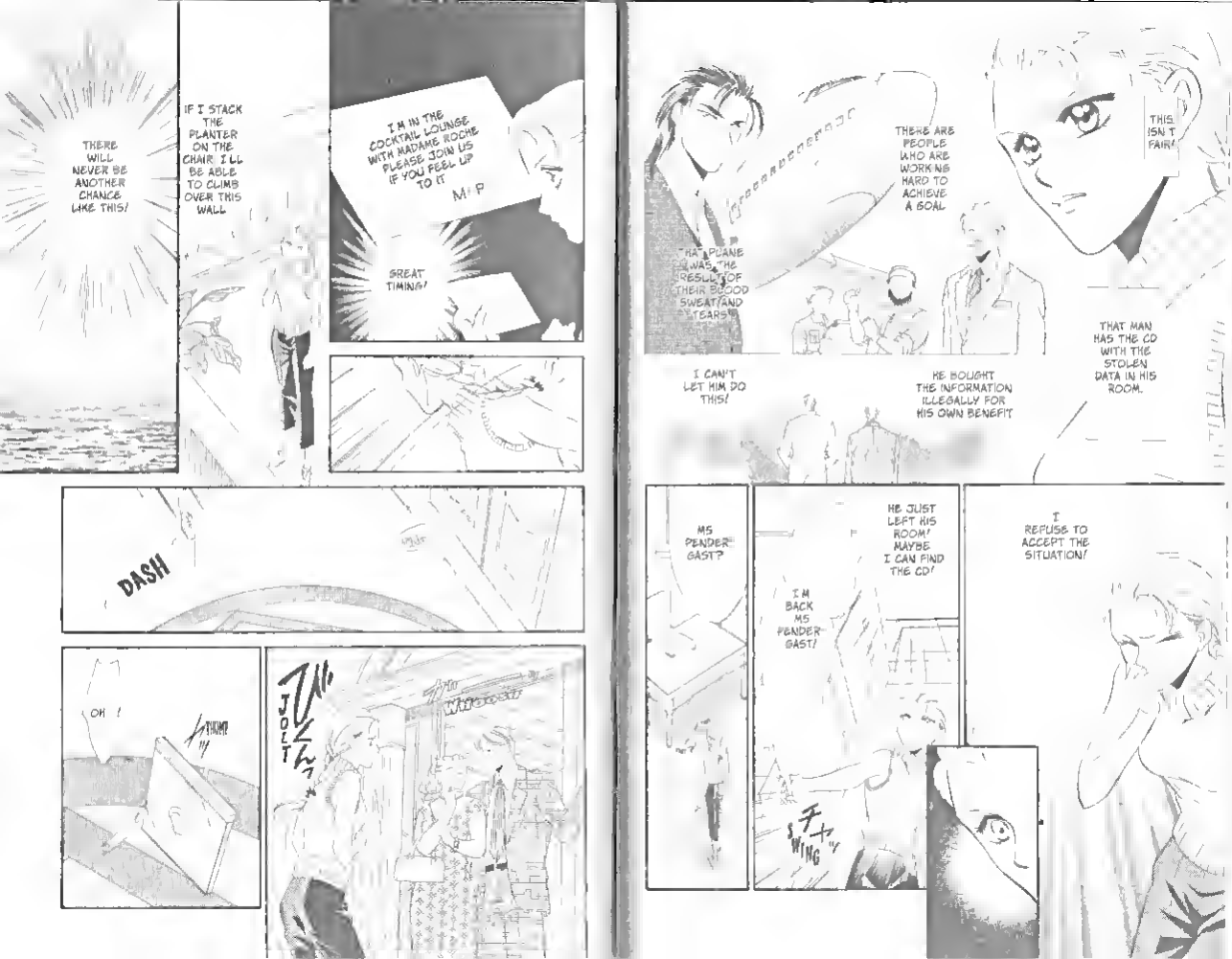
I DON'T KNOW
--IF I HAVE HIS AMBITION
THIS IS ABOUT OUR DREAMS IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY
I CAN'T GIVE THAT AWAY FOR ANY PRICE
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT I WOULD--
-- SACRIFICE SO MUCH FOR?
I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO APOLOGIZE
I SHOULDN'T HAVE INVOLVED YOU IN MY BUSINESS
LAURA
I'M SORRY
IF I DIDN'T SCREAM

ALL THE EMPLOYEES HERE ARE PEOPLE JUST LIKE ME
THEY'VE SACRIFICED A LOT TO MAKE OUR DREAMS COME TRUE
SOME WANTED TO SUCCEED
--FINANCIALLY
SOME WANTED FAME AND ACCOMPLISHMENT
SOME WANTED TO BE THE BEST IN THEIR FIELD
THAT I WANT TO REALIZE
I ALSO HAVE LOTS OF DREAMS-

THE IMPRESSION I HAD OF YOU IS CHANGING
THAT'S NOT ANYTHING TO BE PROUD OF, ANYWAY
I DON'T THINK SO!
I COULD NEVER BE A BURGLAR!
UH
UHM
HE'S A WARM
AND KIND MAN.
!!
WELL
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING AFTER MS. FEATHERCAST'S MANUSCRIPT
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD SCREAM LIKE THAT
I COULD HAVE HAD A DEADLY WEAPON
YOU'RE A BRAVE YOUNG WOMAN
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME THAT NIGHT
I'M SURE
YOU'RE THE TYPE OF WOMAN THAT WILL DO ANYTHING TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU
MAMIE'S A LUCKY WOMAN
SHE HAS A BRAVE, HONEST ASSISTANT

TELEPHONE
I SHARE A SUITE WITH MS. PENDERGAST!
I CAN'T LET HER GET THE WRONG IDEA!
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO TALK TO HIM, BUT
I MAY CALL YOU JUST TO HEAR YOUR VOICE
THIS IS MY CELL NUMBER
I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU
THAT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA
IVAN ACTOPOL!

THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING HER
IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE HAS ENDED AND I CAN SEE A BRAND NEW DAY
MAMIE IS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
YOU'VE REACHED, ROOM 225.
UH HELLO?
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I GET JUMPY WHEN I HEAR THE PHONE RING-
YES MS. PENDERGAST IS AVAILABLE
MADAME ROCHE?
RRRRRR


THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS!
IF I STACK THE PLANTER ON THE CHAIR, I'LL BE ABLE TO CLIMB OVER THIS WALL
I'M IN THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE WITH MADAME ROCHE PLEASE JOIN US IF YOU FEEL UP TO IT
M! P
GREAT TIMING!
DASH
OH!
THUMP
JOLT
THIS ISN'T FAIR!
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING HARD TO ACHIEVE A GOAL
THAT PLANE WAS "THE RESULT OF THEIR BLOOD SWEAT AND TEARS"
I CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS!
HE BOUGHT THE INFORMATION ILLEGALLY FOR HIS OWN BENEFIT
THAT MAN HAS THE CD WITH THE STOLEN DATA IN HIS ROOM.
MS PENDERGAST?
I'M BACK MS PENDERGAST!
HE JUST LEFT HIS ROOM! MAYBE I CAN FIND THE CD!
SWING
I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE SITUATION!

UH HUH
WHAT!? YOU CLIMBED OVER THE BALCONY WALL?
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD GO SO WELL.
I THINK THE CHURCHILL'S DATA IS IN THIS CD.
HERE YOU GO
THAT WAS DANGEROUS!
WHAT IF YOU FELL OFF?
YOU COULD HAVE DIED!

I NEED TO GET THIS TO CAESAR ASAP!
SHAKE
SHAKE
MY HEART IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE.
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
LAURA!
CAESAR
CAESAR
YOU'RE SHAKING BADLY
I FOUND IT !
WE'LL TALK LATER
LET'S GO
WATCH OUT!
SLUMP
SLUMP

I'M AN EXPERIENCED MOUNTAIN CLIMBER!
I'M FINE
YOU DID THE SAME THING!
IT'S NOT SAFE FOR AN INEXPERIENCED PERSON LIKE YOU!
THAT NIGHT I DESCENDED FROM A ROOM ABOVE YOURS USING MOUNTAIN CLIMBING EQUIPMENT
--HE MAY HAVE KILLED YOU!
IF HE HAD COME BACK WHILE YOU WERE THERE --
POOR THING --
YOU'RE STILL SHAKING.
YOU'RE SCARED
I'M SORRY FOR ACTING ON MY OWN!
BUT IT WAS MY ONLY CHANCE!
I THOUGHT I WOULD JUST CALL YOU AND LET YOU HANDLE IT BUT THEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE
--I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE IT BACK
IF ACTOPOL STOLE THAT FROM YOU, --
YOU SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT

I'M SO GLAD I CAN MAKE HIM SO HAPPY
THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS FOR ME.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
NOTHING
I'M SORRY.
I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU PROFUSELY
HE'S MORE WORRIED ABOUT MY SAFETY
THAN ABOUT GETTING HIS BLUEPRINT BACK
POUND
POUND
POUND
YOU THIEF!
OPEN THE DOOR!

YOU SAID YOU COULD NEVER COMMIT BURGLARY
DOES THAT MEAN I'M REALLY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

IT'S THIS GIRL!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!
THIS IS NOT FUNNY ANYMORE
THUD
WHAT!?
SHE'S THE ONE THAT STOLE FROM ME!
WHAT!?

APPARENTLY THIS GUEST HAS LOST SOMETHING IMPORTANT
EXCUSE ME MADAME
I DIDN'T LOSE ANYTHING! IT WAS STOLEN!
I'LL SUE YOU FOR SLANDER!
LAURA WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING!
GET OUTTA MY WAY!

IS IT THE RUDE JERK AGAIN?
WHAT DOES HE WANT?
BAM
YES MS PENDERGAST
I HAVE PROOF
THAT THE GIRL NEXT DOOR DID IT!
HOW DID HE FIND OUT?

OPEN THE DOOR! I KNOW YOU STOLE FROM ME!
BAM
IT'S NOT A MISUNDERSTANDING!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE LADIES IN THE NEXT ROOM STOLE FROM YOU?
I KNOW FOR SURE THAT THEY STOLE FROM ME!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT SOME KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDING?

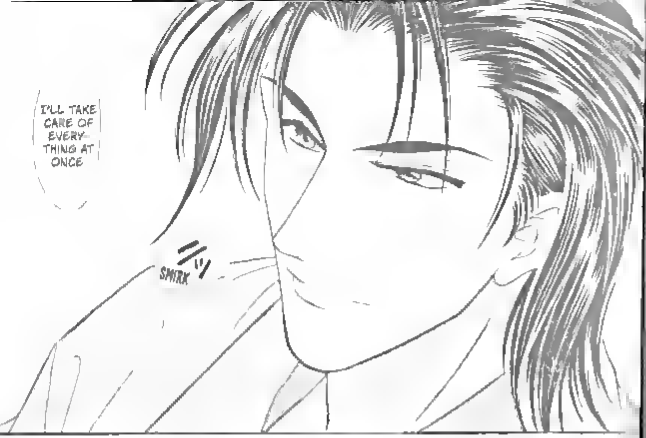
--THIS IS JUST A COINCIDENCE?
YOU THINK ~
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
I FORGOT TO CLEAN UP AFTER MYSELF!
WHAT AN OBVIOUS MISTAKE!
LAURA
MONSIEUR PLEASE CALM DOWN
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF MISUNDER-STANDING
I DON'T ~
-- KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
WHERE IS IT?
GIVE IT BACK.
! HEH!
MIS-UNDER-STANDING ?
WAIT!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!
TOK
TOK
TOK
TOK
FLING

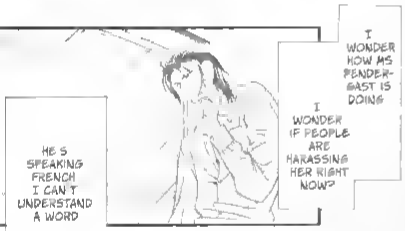
GIMME TEN MINUTES ALONE WITH THIS GIRL
THAT WILL RESOLVE EVERYTHING!
THERE'S NO NEED!
AHH!
THE POLICE!?
I WOULD PREFER NOT TO GET THE POLICE INVOLVED BUT--
--I BELIEVE IT IS INEVITABLE.
I'D RATHER CALL THE POLICE THAN LEAVE HER ALONE WITH YOU!
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
W WAIT!
HURRY UP! CALL THE POLICE!
--WE WILL HELP YOU WITH THE SEARCH
IN THAT CASE --
--SEARCH MY ROOM AGAIN.
I WILL --
BACK
GIVE IT--
YOU ADMIT TO IT?
MADE-MOIS-ELLE
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME. I WON'T GIVE IT BACK!
THAT CD BELONGS TO CAESAR.
I HAVE...
NOTHING TO SAY.

I'M ON YOUR SIDE, LAURA
I NEED TO THINK UP A GOOD MOTIVE
YES MA'AM
YOU NEED TO GET DRESSED
THE POLICE MAY COME SOON
RRR...
MS PENDERGAST!
I'M READY!
PLEASE HELP CAESAR ACHIEVE HIS DREAMS!
I CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH.
GOD, PLEASE GIVE ME STRENGTH!
MADE MOIS ELLE
I'M SURE THIS WILL BE CLEARED UP QUICKLY
IT'S SOME KIND OF MISUNDER-STANDING THAT'S ALL
MADAME, WOULD YOU BOTH STAY IN YOUR ROOM
...UNTIL THIS MATTER IS CLEARED UP?
I UNDER-STAND
IF WE CANNOT FIND IT IN HIS ROOM WE'LL HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE.
SMILE
WELL

I'LL TELL THEM THEY'RE RIGHT
HURRY!
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL RUN INTO RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME!
YOU LET ME GET AWAY! THEY'LL COME AFTER YOU!
THEY'LL THINK—
MA'AM.
CHUCKLE
WHATEVER YOU DID I'M SURE IT WAS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT
RIGHT?
--SORRY ABOUT THIS MESS MS. PENDER-GAST!
DASH
I'M—
MS. PENDER-GAST,
I'LL BE FINE DEAR!
YOU HAVE TO LEAVE!
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW! CAESAR IS WAITING OUTSIDE
CAESAR
THEY'RE STILL IN THE ROOM
GULP
MA'AM?
WE'RE NOT IN LOVE!
CHOOSE
HE SAID HE'S WAITING AT THE SAME SPOT AS YESTERDAY
IT'S NICE TO BE IN LOVE!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS!
THIS IS A LOT OF MONEY!
IT'S TOO MUCH!
YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT LATER
TAKE THIS WITH YOU!
I SAW YOU!
HUGGLE
DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME!
I SAW YOU TWO KISSING AT THE PARTY AND ALSO DURING THE TOUR OF HIS FACTORY

IF I DIDN'T CALL EARLIER I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED
I'M SO GLAD I WAS ON TIME
DID YOU FEEL LIKE WE WERE IN DANGER?
WHY DID YOU CALL SO EARLY?
THAT CD...
WAS ACTOPOL'S ORDER BOOK?
I THOUGHT
SHOCK
DON'T BE UPSET
WE NOW KNOW SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME DAMAGING INFORMATION
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE.
WHAT?
I THINK I CAN GIVE UP EVERYTHING FOR YOU!
I DON'T KNOW WHY I FEEL LIKE -
I COULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!
HE'S WAITING FOR ME!
I'M NOT SCARED AT ALL!


I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING AT ONCE
SMIRK


I WONDER HOW MS PENDER-GAST IS DOING
I WONDER IF PEOPLE ARE HARASSING HER RIGHT NOW?

HE S SPEAKING FRENCH I CAN T UNDERSTAND A WORD
!

ACTOPOL HAS BEEN STEALING FROM HIS COMPANY
WHAT?
HE'S BEEN EMBEZZLING MONEY OFF OF DEALS OVER SEVERAL YEARS AND MASKING IT AS A HANDLING FEE
CYRUS IS RUTHLESS WHEN IT COMES TO DISHONEST EMPLOYEES
!
HE WILL ATTACK YOU TO SAVE HIMSELF

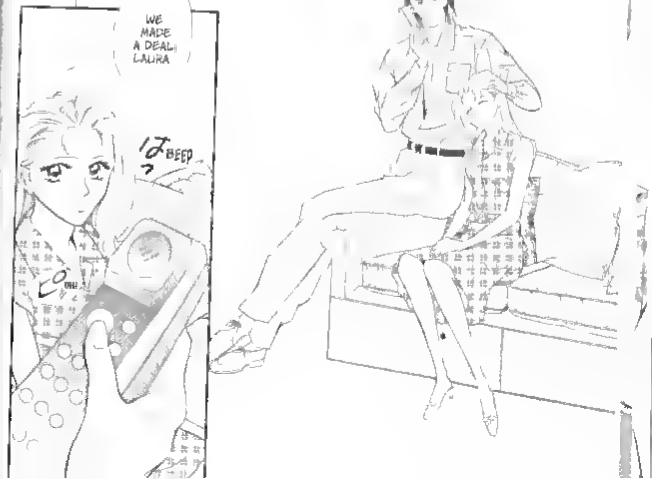
I HAVE A BARGAINING CHIP NOW THANKS TO YOU!
AHAHAHA! NOT AT ALL!
HUH ?

I WAS TRYING TO HELP BUT I JUST GOT EVERYONE IN A DEEPER MESS
I M SO SORRY

ACTOPOL IS UNUSUALLY NERVOUS
HE AGREED TO ALL MY TERMS
ACCORDING TO HIM, HE DOESN'T TRUST MANY PEOPLE...
SO HE HAS NOT TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THE CHURCHILL.

EVERY-THING WILL BE FINE
I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN STRESSED OUT
THAT'S GREAT CAESAR! I'M SO GLAD!
あはははは
YOUR DATA HASN'T BEEN COMPROMISED YET?

I CAN FEEL IT!
—IS OKAY
EVERYTHING—


WE MADE A DEAL, LAURA
BEEP

I'M SO SORRY
I WAS JUST KIDDING AROUND
WHAT?
I'M NOT LIKE THAT
I WOULDN'T MAKE OUT WITH A KID LIKE YOU
WHEN I'M WITH YOU
NOT REALLY IT WASN'T SO BAD.
I'M NOT SCARED AT ALL ANYMORE!
LAURA.
HUG
SO PASSIONATE
HIS KISS IS—

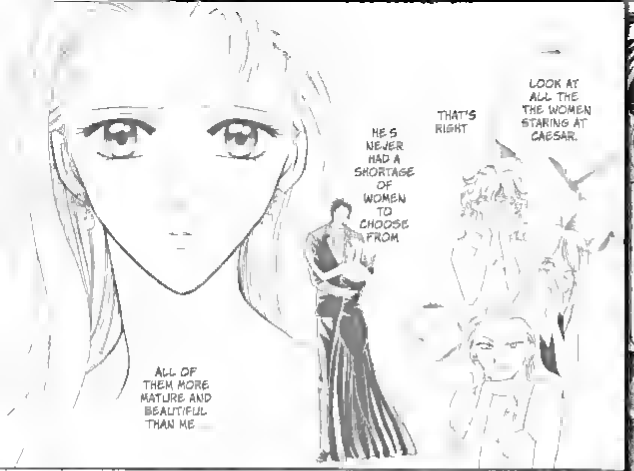
I THOUGHT WE SHOULD ALL GO OUT TO DINNER TONIGHT THE THREE OF US
THAT SOUNDS GREAT!
WAIT A MINUTE
I'LL TELL MS FENDER-GAST I'LL BE BACK SOON
UM.
UH...
WHAT IS IT?
WELL..
G'MON...
WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE WAY YOUNGER THAN ME AND NAIVE TOO
SO WHAT IF I AM.
WAS HE REALLY JUST KIDDING?
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!
GRRR
THAT ISN'T A VERY NICE THING TO SAY!
HEH!
ANYWAY I SUPPOSE I WOULD SEEM YOUNG TO AN OLD MAN LIKE YOU!
CAESAR
I LOVE YOU
CAESAR
I
YOU NEED TO CALL MAMIE
I'M GOING TO CHANGE.
I'M SORRY.
OH?

I'M A PROFESSIONAL WRITER
IT'S HARD TO SURPRISE ME!
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S THE TRUTH!
I NEED TO TURN THIS STORY INTO A NOVEL!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GUEST NEXT DOOR WOULD BECOME THE VILLAIN!
RIGHT? IT'S PERFECT
HAHAHA
A SUSPENSEFUL PLOT SURROUNDING A BUDDING ROMANCE?
I'LL ADD MY SIGNATURE TOUCHES
A DREAMY WONDERFUL HERO
A BEAUTIFUL GIRL AND THE VILLAIN
ALL THE NECESSARY CHARACTERS ARE PRESENT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE
- I'M IN LOVE -
WITH
LAURA

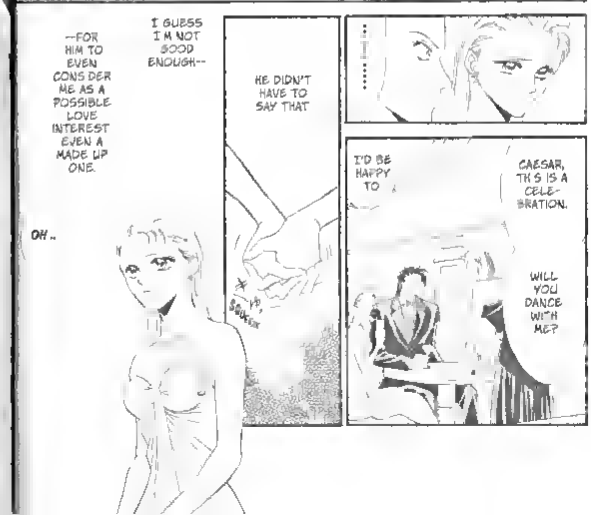
I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN


ALL OF THEM MORE MATURE AND BEAUTIFUL THAN ME
HE'S NEVER HAD A SHORTAGE OF WOMEN TO CHOOSE FROM
THAT'S RIGHT
LOOK AT ALL THE THE WOMEN STARING AT CAESAR.

SO LAURA AND I PROVIDE THE ROMANCE IN YOUR BOOK.
IT'S LIKE WATCHING AN ALTERNATE REALITY IT'S FUN

EXCUSE ME MADEMOISELLE.

I GAVE HIM A SENSE OF ADVENTURE
IF WE HADN'T MET BY CHANCE
WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME?
DANCE WITH ME FIRST?
CAESAR WOULD NEVER HAVE SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN ME


--FOR HIM TO EVEN CONSIDER ME AS A POSSIBLE LOVE INTEREST EVEN A MADE UP ONE.
I GUESS I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH--
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY THAT
OH..
I'D BE HAPPY TO
CAESAR, THIS IS A CELEBRATION.
WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME?

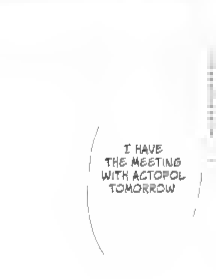
HUH?
I DON'T THINK OTHER MEN SEE HER THE WAY YOU DO
SHE MAY HAVE GRADUATED COLLEGE BUT SHE'S STILL YOUNG!
BESIDES I DON'T THINK LAURA WOULD BE A GOOD MATCH FOR ME
WHEN DID THOSE CREEPS
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? MEN AREN'T GOING TO LEAVE A PRETTY GIRL LIKE HER ALONE!
IF YOU DON'T MAKE YOUR MOVE, SOMEONE ELSE WILL
I'LL HAVE TO PASS THOUGH
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR ENERGY
...TO THINK OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN WORK
TO YOU?
THAT'S A LOVELY IDEA.
I'M PLANNING ON RETURNING TO ENGLAND IN A WEEK.
WHAT?
YOU SHOULD POP THE QUESTION WHILE YOU HAVE THE TIME
I'LL MISS YOU
I'VE WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR A LONG TIME TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL!
THE ONLY THING I WANT IS FOR MY COMPANY TO SUCCEED
I'M NOT TRYING TO DO ANYTHING
WHY DO YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO AVOID TALKING ABOUT LAURA?
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ME!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU'RE SO OBVIOUS

EXCUSE ME, BUT THIS IS MY DATE.
EEK!
WHOA!
OH WE WERE JUST TALKING THAT'S ALL. LET'S GO
!?
MAMIE
I SAW YOU GET SERIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN WORK JUST NOW!
I SEE!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME THAT YOU'RE NOT IN LOVE WITH LAURA?
I REALLY CAN'T
BUT
DON'T BE SO SHY!
JUST ONE DANCE PLEASE?
UH

SHE CAN BE DIFFICULT BUT SHE'S SO SWEET AROUND YOU!
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO BRING OUT HER BEST SIDE.
PEOPLE LIKE HER NEED MORE LOVE NOT LESS.
SHE CAN BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE SHE'S LONELY
!
AT HER AGE SHE NO LONGER WRITES FOR FAME OR MONEY
IT'S HER CONNECTION TO SOCIETY AND OTHER PEOPLE
I SEE
THAT'S WHY YOU STAYED BY HER SIDE
THANK YOU.
OH?
I THINK MS PEABODY GAST ENJOYED HERSELF TONIGHT
CAESAR YOU COULD SEE THAT SHE IS LONELY...
YOU STILL HAVE A WHOLE EVENING TO ENJOY YOURSELF
STOP!
MA AM I LL
SUMMER EVENINGS ARE MADE FOR ROMANCE!
THE TAXI IS HERE SO I'M LEAVING
WHAT
ROMANCE.
WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME, MADEMOISELLE?

ARE WE GOING TO ANOTHER PLACE?
WHAT'S WRONG!?
I CAN'T SEEM TO SETTLE DOWN OUT HERE
LET'S GO.
GRAB
WHY!?


I HAVE THE MEETING WITH ACTOPOL TOMORROW

YOU SAID TODAY WAS A CELEBRATION
IT'S NOT THAT LATE.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR HOTEL.
WE SHOULD GO HOME FOR TONIGHT.
WHY?

YOU CAN SEE THE LONELINESS THAT SHE TRIES SO HARD TO HIDE

YOU MUST SEE MY FEELINGS OF LOVE FOR YOU!
SHE'S CUTE!

SLAP
LAU
BUT
YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING NICE FOR YOU AS A FRIEND
GOOD-BYE
LAURA!
I WON'T LOOK BACK AND REGRET THIS OR BOTHER YOU AND CAUSE YOU ANY MORE PROBLEMS ALL RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY!
WHY?
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO COME
HE SHUT ME OUT!
OH.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?
I WANT TO BE THERE TOO!!
WHAT TIME TOMORROW?
ACTOPOL IS GOING TO SEND THE BLUEPRINT BY MAIL TO MY COMPANY
ONCE ALL THE INFORMATION IS CONFIRMED I'M GOING TO RETURN HIS CD
I HAVE TO BE WELL RESTED FOR THIS.
I'LL MAKE UP FOR THIS EVENING I PROMISE
ONCE HE HAS THE BLUEPRINT HE DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE?
WHY?
YOU NO LONGER NEED ME.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING.
YOU DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANOTHER MINUTE ON ME!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
I'D LOVE TO GET YOU A PRESENT

I SAW HIM WITH ACTOPOL.
THIS MAN
IF YOU WANNA BLAME ANYONE BLAME CAESAR
I'M BEING DRUGGED
CAESAR!
GRAB
!?
YOU'RE COMIN WITH ME GIRLIE!

CAESAR KNEW OF MY FEELINGS AND COULDN'T BE BOTHERED!
I WANTED MORE
I WANTED TO BE BY YOUR SIDE AND BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND
CAESAR!?
THAT'S ALL I WANTED
ボロ
ボロ
ボロ
I WAS LYING WHEN I SAID I WOULDN'T REGRET THIS.

I WANTED TO GIVE YOU MY HEART
UH...
IT WAS MY DREAM--
--TO BE BY YOUR SIDE.
I'D STAY REGERAL STILL IF I WERE YOU
WAKING UP YOUNG LADY?
I SEE THE SILVER PLANES THAT FLY THROUGH THE AIR WHILE YOU FOLLOW THEM WITH YOUR EYES.
I SEE THE SKY!

I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF SOME STUFF YOU WATCH THE GIRL.
AAAH!
WE CAN'T LET HIM LIVE!
PUNCH
NOW HE KNOWS TOO MUCH
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL CAESAR!
I DIDN'T PRETEND!
I HAVE BACK THE INFORMATION THAT HE NEEDED!
CAESAR DIDN'T BREAK HIS PROMISE!
I'M SURE HE'S WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW!
YOU ONLY PRETENDED TO GIVE HIM THE BLUEPRINT!
YOU LIAR!
YOUSEF!
JUST LET ME GO BACK TO THE HOTEL
I'M SURE HE'S ON HIS WAY TO RETURN MY CD
HE WON'T ANSWER THE PHONE
WHERE AM I?
ACTOPOL!
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE WAS JUST SETTING A TRAP FOR YOU, YOU MORON! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FELL FOR IT!
GAAAH!
SLAM
THUD
WE STILL HAVE TIME
YOU DUMB IDIOT!

I DON'T KNOW
YOU'RE LYING!
TELL ME WHAT IT IS
YOU KNOW...
...CAESAR'S NUMBER RIGHT?
--I DON'T THINK HE WILL COME
EVEN IF YOU CALL CAESAR --

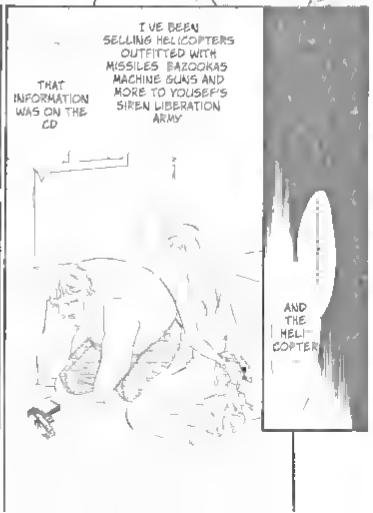
AS LONG AS HE HAS THAT HE'S HAPPY
CAESAR LOVES HIS JOB MORE THAN ANYTHING
YES HE DOES
AFTER ALL, HE HAS THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE CHURCHILL RIGHT?

THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE IT FROM ME NOW
WHY IS THAT MAN DOING THIS TO US?

THERE WAS MORE ON THAT CD WASN'T THERE?
IF YOUSEF HADN'T SHOWN UP
EVERY THING WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE

THEY'RE TERRORISTS!!
SIREN LIBERATION ARMY

I HAD NO CHOICE.
HE THREATENED ME


I'VE BEEN SELLING HELICOPTERS OUTFITTED WITH MISSILES BAZOOKAS MACHINE GUNS AND MORE TO YOUSEF'S SIREN LIBERATION ARMY
THAT INFORMATION WAS ON THE CD
AND THE HELICOPTER

WHAT ...?
HE WAS READY TO PULL BACK HIS OFFER TO SAVE YOU
HE SAID HE WOULD KILL ME IF I EVER SCARED OR HURT YOU AGAIN
HE SAID THAT--
WHY? THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO COME
I WANT TO BE THERE TOO!!
--TO PROTECT ME?
--TO HIM.
I'M NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH
IT'S TOO BAD
--IF CAESAR REALLY LOVES ME
TAKE ME TO CAESAR
HE MAY STILL BE WAITING FOR US!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
I WANT TO SEE
PLEASE!! GIVE ME HIS NUMBER!!
HE'LL COME HERE IF HE KNOWS YOU ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGE
OTHERWISE WE'LL BOTH BE KILLED!
THIS IS WHAT HE SAID
I TOLD LABERTON
TO HAVE YOU BRING ME THE CD
"I REFUSE!"
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR LIES!

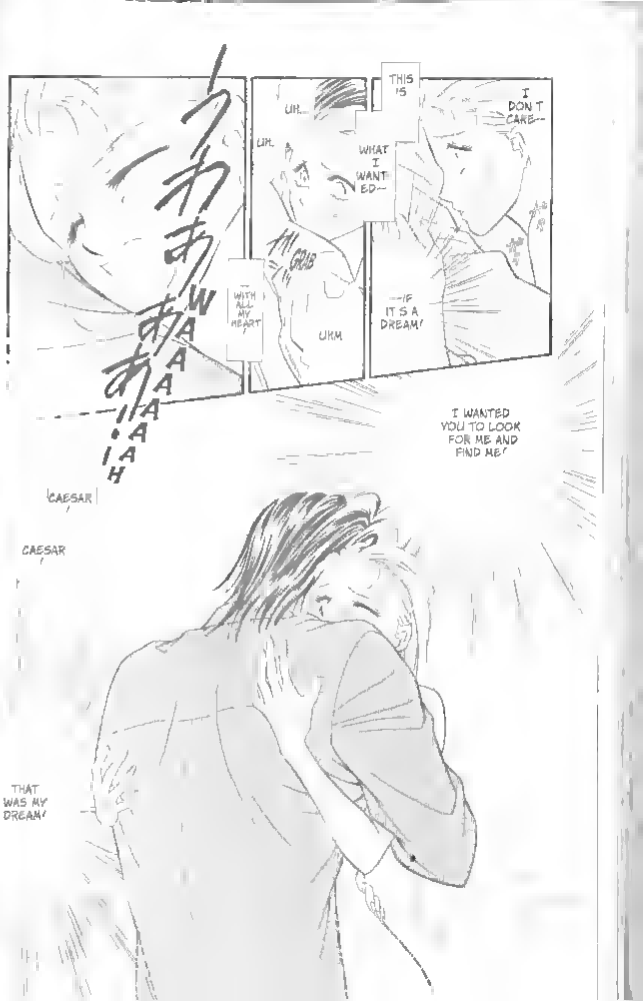
MR ACTOPOL!
I'M NOT GOING TO HELP YOU KILL ANY MORE PEOPLE!
I'M RETURNING TO THE HOTEL WITH THIS GIRL
DON'T YOU DARE POINT A GUN AT ME!
YOU JACKASS!
GAAH!
OH NO!!
DASH
MR ACTOPOL!
I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO LET HER LOOSE.
I CAN'T JUST LET GO AND GIVE UP
TIE HER UP AGAIN.
UH..!
THE GUN
!!
I NEED TO TELL CAESAR HOW I FEEL!
DASH

BOOM
!!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS!
AAH!
SHUT UP!

LAURA!! I'M SO GLAD!
I WOULD HAVE HATED MYSELF IF YOU WERE HURT!
AM I DREAMING?
WHY IS CAESAR HERE?
I JUST DREAMING

I LOVE YOU.

THE ARMY WAS ALSO LOOKING FOR YOUSEF ON A DIFFERENT MATTER
THEY ALLOWED ME TO COME ALONG
I THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T CARE THAT I HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED
WHAT!?
I WOULD HAVE COME HERE BY MYSELF IF I HAD TO
CHILL
I
THAT COLD
I'M NOT—


WAAAAAAAAAH
UH...
UH...
THIS IS
WHAT I WANTED—
I DON'T CARE—
GRAB
WITH ALL MY HEART
UHM
—IF IT'S A DREAM!
I WANTED YOU TO LOOK FOR ME AND FIND ME!
CAESAR
CAESAR
THAT WAS MY DREAM!

MAYBE I NEED TO THANK THOSE JERKS
WHY ?
I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH FEAR
I THOUGHT I MAY HAVE BEEN TOO LATE
I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING WITH ALL THE SMOKE AND CONFUSION
AND DESPAIR IN MY LIFE!
THEY MADE ME REALIZE
HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE TO ME
?
WHAT LOVE WAS.
--I NEVER KNEW
UNTIL I MET YOU

--THE CHURCHILL, HASN'T SEEMED AS IMPORTANT TO ME.
EVER SINCE I MET YOU THE REALIZATION OF MY DREAMS,
MAYBE I WAS
I'M SORRY
I WAS SCARED TO CHANGE
- SUPPOSED TO REACH FOR THE STARS.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE--
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE PLACED WORK ABOVE YOU.
YOU WERE HURT I WAS WRONG
NO I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOU
YOU'RE A TALENTED MAN

IT'S ALL YOURS FOREVER
EVERY-THING I'VE EVER CREATED
EVERY THING ABOUT ME
I JUST WANT YOU CAESAR!
BEFORE I MET YOU,
MAYBE IT WAS AN EFFORT FOR ME TO -
SIMPLY BREATHE
YOU BROUGHT LIFE BACK INTO MY WORLD.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE LIVED A FULL LIFE
I LOVE YOU
I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE

HARLEQUIN

Now here's a SNEAK PEEK at...

Eek! What is it about Steven Sinclair that makes the normally together Kit Mallory turn into a complete idiot any time he's around? It couldn't be because Steven's so good looking, could it? Being a toy tester is usually fun, but now it's Kit who's being tested

AVAILABLE THIS MONTH AT LEADING RETAILERS!

GET IT NOW!

POOF
I JUST SPILLED SOME WATER, THAT'S ALL.
KOFF KOFF
YOU IDIOT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE --
--YOU SPILLED WATER LIKE THAT, TODD!
WE HAD A MIXTURE OF IODINE AND ZINC PREPARED FOR THIS TYPE OF ACCIDENT--
ON AMMONIUM NITRATE AND SODIUM CHLORIDE?
ACK! --
IF SINCLAIR HEARS ABOUT THIS HE'S GONNA FLIP
I WAS --
--HOPING TO SPEED UP THE RESULT OF OUR TESTS

INDUSTRIAL TOY COMPANY
YIKES!
OH MY GOOD-NESS!
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY
WE NEED --
-- FRESH AIR!
TODD, WHAT DID YOU DO!?

KIT MALLORY--
--I NEED TO SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE IN 10 MINUTES
BE SURE TO GET ALL THE PURPLE POWDER OFF FIRST
OH NOOOO!

SO--
--YOU ARE AWARE OF MY FEELINGS
POOF
ACHOO!
THIS PURPLE POWDER
HE DOESN'T LIKE US AS IT IS
!
MR SINCLAIR
I HEARD --
--ABOUT YOUR ACCIDENT JUST NOW
YOU'RE A WALKING TIME BOMB DIRECTOR
I'VE IGNORED YOUR FREQUENT MISADVENTURES BUT

THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
WHOOSH
TEE HEE
あはは
I HOPE YOU DON'T GET FIRED!
GOOD LUCK!
HE DOESN'T LIKE THAT FACT THAT I'M A WOMAN AND THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
GET FIRED? I HOPE NOT.
IT'S KIT
MAY I COME IN?
I'D BETTER NOT GET FIRED. I LOVE MY JOB.
BOSS
IS HE IN HERE?
CREAK
HE'S --
--NOT HERE!

EVERYONE CALLS HIM "ICE MONSTER" BEHIND HIS BACK
HE'S ALWAYS CALM AND COLLECTED
WHAT IS IT NOW?
YOU SHOULD DRESS BETTER NOT SO SLOPPY
YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE YOU WANT TO GET FIRED!
I BORROWED CLEAN CLOTHES FROM TODD
THEY'RE TOO BIG ON ME

HE'S REALLY LIKE AN ICE MONSTER. ESPECIALLY WHEN HE GLARES AT YOU WITH HIS BLUE EYES
I COULD DANCE NAKED IN FRONT OF HIM AND IT WOULD JUST ANNOY HIM EVEN MORE
BESIDES, THERE'S NO POINT IN DRESSING UP FOR THAT GRUMP
AHAHA
あはははは
GLARE
THAT'S TRUE

STEVEN SINCLAIR
HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIAL TOY COMPANY
I'M LATE!
THE "ICE MONSTER" WANTS YOU IN HIS OFFICE?

I ADMIT I'VE CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL I PROMISE
KIT...
I WORK HARD BECAUSE I LOVE MY JOB!
PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE
THUD
TRIP

WHA...?
SWING
I'M SORRY!
MS MALLORY
OF COURSE NOT!
TWITCH
YOU'RE A WALKING CATASTROPHE DO YOU CAUSE ACCIDENTS OUTSIDE OF THE LAB TOO?

TWITCH
THAT NOISE
I HOPE THAT WAS FROM YOUR OUTFIT.
UH...!!
UH
UM
I ALS HOPE
--YOU DIDN'T TEAR MY NEW SILK SHIRT
STEVEN--
--YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOUR SELF
WOW!
THE PRES DENT MAKING MOVES ON AN EMPLOYEE.
TUG
TON
RIP
I'M SORRY!
EXCUSE ME

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Clarissa is on a mission. The kingdom of Marik needs a prince, and it's Clarissa's job to see that Jack Brown takes on his rightful position—even if he doesn't want to. Is it just Marik and the king that need Jack, or will Clarissa get her prince, too?

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Eek! What is it about Steven Sinclair that makes the normally together Kit Mallory turn into a complete idiot any time he's around? It couldn't be because Steven's so great looking, could it? Being a toy tester is usually fun, but now it's Kit who's being tested.

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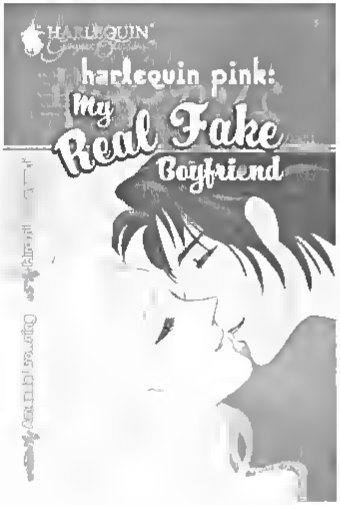

Love letters from long ago have been stolen and Rachel must save her grandmother from embarrassment. The plan is simple—Rachel just has to pretend to date Nathan, a guy she's had a crush on for years. Like *that's* going to be hard!

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After years of living in her beautiful sister's shadow and losing countless boyfriends to her, Carrie Lockett cannot believe that hunky Shane Reynolds could really fall for her!

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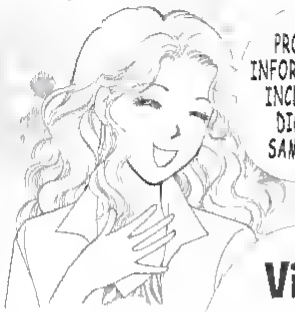

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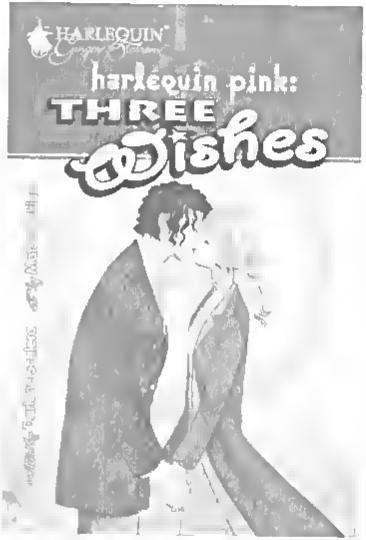

Megan likes her life as it is—safe and predictable. Who is this mysterious guy who keeps asking her to make three wishes? Well, he's kind of cute. And he is willing to make her wishes come true—if only Megan will let him.

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